

## Product News

### Skin cancer research



The **50th WAVE™ DNA Fragment Analysis System** to be installed by **Transgenomic** in Europe has been purchased by researchers studying skin cancer genetics and the biology of skin epidermis. The group, led by Dr David Kelsell, Senior Lecturer at the

Imperial Cancer Research Fund Skin Tumour Laboratory, explores the genetics of skin diseases and melanoma, roles of signalling pathways in the development of skin cancers, and events in keratinocytes during differentiation, disease and cancer. **WAVE™** is extremely efficient for identifying unknown DNA variation associated with skin disease. It is easy to use and allows unattended high throughput screening of PCR products, minimising any potential human error. Screening is quicker and cheaper than with gel-based sequencing. **WAVE™**'s high accuracy and detection sensitivity will be a real asset in screening of tumours for cancer-causing mutations, which is always a challenge.

Circle number 1 on reader response card.

### New microplate reader



**TECAN** have announced their latest absorbance microplate reader, the **SUNRISE**. With an innovative range of options, this versatile reader gives diagnostic and research laboratories all the features they need for high throughput of absorbance assays. Through a novel touchscreen option, the **SUNRISE** operates without a PC, saving space and adding a new dimension to user-friendliness and computer-independent data processing. The optical performance and high quality of the **SUNRISE** guarantees fast, reproducible and accurate measurements.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

### Powder-free latex gloves



Achieving the highest standards of protection for medical and laboratory staff in the workplace has always been an important issue, not only from the hazardous materials they work with, but also from the gloves they wear. Over the years it has become evident that for some people wearing latex gloves for extended periods of time can result in latex sensitisation. To help minimise the problem **Sentinel Laboratories** offer a 'Oxyglazed' powder-free latex glove, **Safeskin**, which has a total protein level of less than 0.5 ppm and no detectable level of any other contact sensitisers.

Circle number 3 on reader response card.

### In Brief

#### Antibody to CAD

**TCS Biological** can now offer an antibody to CAD (caspase activated DNase), a murine/rat DNase that is activated by caspase-3 during apoptosis. CAD is the homologue to the human DNA fragmentation factor 40 (DFF40). This new antibody detects a specific molecule that is activated by the caspase cascade and that degrades chromosomal DNA in cells towards the end of apoptosis.

Circle number 4 on reader response card.

#### GeneSnap enhancements

Significant enhancements to **GeneSnap** software for the **GeneGenius** and **ChemiGenius** gel documentation systems have been announced by **SYNGENE**. Two innovative methods of acquiring a gel image – via an autoexposure facility or image series capture – will deliver valuable time and cost savings for a range of applications. With the addition of autoexposure, the user can now click a single button on screen to command the CCD camera to view the image; **GeneSnap** then determines the correct level of integration, displays the image and switches off the camera and darkroom.

Circle number 5 on reader response card.

#### New vaccine delivery system

**CAMR** (Center for Applied Microbiology & Research) has developed an innovative new delivery system that allows DNA vaccines and immunotherapies to be administered without needles. By using a microencapsulation process that produces small biodegradable spheres of poly (lactide-co-glycolide), the target molecule can be protected and transported directly to the immune system in the gut. One advantage of these microspheres is that they can be administered in a variety of ways including by nasal spray and orally.

Circle number 6 on reader response card.

#### Bioinformatics teaching laboratory

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's DNA Learning Center**, creator of the world's first portable genetics laboratory, the **Vector Van**, is about to unveil another novel educational vehicle. Thanks to a new grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the DNA Learning Center is developing the **VectorNet Computer Laboratory**, the first portable, educational bioinformatics laboratory. Like the **Vector Van**, the **VectorNet Computer Laboratory** is a travelling educational tool. The **VectorNet** will allow students to compare their own DNA with that of other individuals around the world, by utilizing bioinformatics.

Circle number 7 on reader response card.